

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary A McBride-Lee,
136th District:
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Michael Marella, Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez-Walker, James Holloway

City Clerk Hudson that a quorum was present.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME	SUBJECT
Cecil C. Young 99 Carroll Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06607	No response regarding unjust termination matter.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and spoke about the various roads that were in desperate need of repair.

Council Member Swain joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

He listed a number of roads including Seaview Avenue, West Avenue and some sidewalks in need of repair.

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
September 2, 2014

He then said that it was a shame and disgrace that nothing had been done regarding the unjust termination. He wanted to know why there was no system in place regarding dealing with these issues. He said that he wanted his civil rights and justice.

Council Member Holloway joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Bridgeport's Net Worth – rising or falling.

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

If I ask an individual, “How are you doing financially?” most people will respond, “OK.” It is a very practical answer. They tell me afterwards that their revenue is greater than their current expense including all kinds of taxes. Operationally, at this moment, they sense they are on top of their game. That is similar to what the Budget & Appropriations Committee does for the Council if it bothers to look at the operating budget in detail.

But some people answer such a question by reflecting on their Net Worth. They think about their asset positions including real estate, savings, financial and property investments, business values, retirement plans, annuities and life insurance and compare it to mortgages, education loans, lines of credit, card payments and other liabilities. If the latter are decreasing steadily and under control and the assets are increasing in value, Net Worth likewise is trending positively.

If I ask you as City Council members, “How is Bridgeport doing financially in terms of Net Worth?” what would you answer? To what document or report do you look to for such an answer? The only one that comes to mind is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report last done for the year 2013 and received by you eight months ago in January, 2014. Did you hold a hearing to review that report specifically inviting the public to attend and understand the results alongside you? If not, why not? It is the long term measurement tool for whether Bridgeport policy, plans, processes and overall activity are headed in the right direction, building long term community values and fiscal strength.

In the several years I have been reviewing City monthly operating reports I have been surprised that none of you receive balance sheet information from the City that becomes public. Apparently you do not ask for it either! When the Financial Review Board supervised City finances 20 years ago, they knew what was in every account, every day. And they also were aware of the liabilities, including accounts payable, at any time. With no Internal Auditor to advise on risks, where is your early warning system? With no Finance Board or committee of any type, the Budget & Appropriations Committee is the only body to question, to probe, and do fiscal blocking and tackling. Are they doing this in comprehensive fashion? What can they tell you? The other 13 people on the Council assume they are up to the task and doing it, aren't you? Do any of you elected 20 Council members know the trend of Bridgeport net worth in the past 5 years? Does it matter to

City land and building values that they reflect October 1, 2008 assessments rather than October 1, 2013 values for which taxpayers spent \$300,000? And have you bothered to update your understanding of City Pension Plans A & B in the face of what likely are not conservative assumptions regarding interest and retirement payouts? Will Bridgeport MERF contributions for public safety officers increase from today when overtime payouts are factored in? Do the amounts charged for Outside Overtime to contractors when police officers are doing flag duty, reimburse the City for the additional future pension payouts to police under MERF that will include overtime compensation in determining pensions? Have you reviewed such material?

If you have not performed such basic monitoring and review, is it because you have a surplus of trust in the Finance Department of the City? They have provided reports to you with mis-labeled headings twice in the past year that indicates proof-reading is a sometime thing for this most basic report.

As all of you know, I am present at each City Council meeting to share with you information that I think you may not be seeing with a “taxpayer perspective”. It has seemed to some of you that I am critical all the time and you dismiss me automatically. This year two Council representatives have not allowed me speak at Committees they chair. In once case proponents, who live outside Bridgeport, for a project seeking tax abatement largesse were invited to participate, but I was silenced by the co-chair. That is an abuse of your CC rulebook privilege, I suggest. Yet I continue in the belief that this information will be vital to those who have to turn the City around in the near future. Your current work, including tonight’s B&A recommendation for another standing item, is merely re-arranging deck chairs on the Bridgeport version of the Titanic!

My comments are a matter of public record in the City Clerk office, on video archived and in each of your email directories. You cannot plead ignorance of the current and coming fiscal difficulties or of the irregularities that have been noted regarding Council’s own extra-ordinance “Stipend” handling and the political payments made to charities in June 2013 from your “Other Services” Legislative account without agenda, meeting or minutes...and the City itself received NO SERVICES. What will you do when questions rise about your financial stewardship? Time will tell.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council at this time.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson then came forward and spoke about the recent death of Michael Brown in Missouri. He spoke about the Bridgeport First organization and gun free zones. He said that in gun free zone prohibits people other than police officers from carrying firearms in that area. He mentioned a recent shooting in Stamford and the frequent shootings in Marina Village.

Council Member DeJesus and Salter joined the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Mr. Nicholson said that he could not understand why anyone would want to kill someone else.

Council President McCarthy then asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Council at this time. No one else came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President McCarthy closed the public speaking at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the City Council Meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

PRAYER

Council Member Martinez-Walker led those present in a short prayer.

The Mayor then requested a moment of silence in honor of the following people:

Joseph Minto, Mazor, Agnes Flanigan, Cpt. Robert Shaw, Santiago Canales,
Tito Madina, and Steven Sotloff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Finch then requested Council Member Halstead to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130th District: Susan Brannelly, Rick Torres
131st District: Jack Banta, Denese Taylor-Moye
132nd District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain
133rd District: Thomas McCarthy, Howard Austin
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary A McBride-Lee, Richard Salter
136th District: Richard DeJesus
137th District: Lydia Martinez, Milta Feliciano
138th District: Michael Marella, Richard Paoletto
139th District: Eneida Martinez-Walker, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

City of Bridgeport
City Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
September 2, 2014

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 16, 2014.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2014.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

146-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: TWENTY DAY NOTICE TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.10.130 WITH JULIANA DELFINO, ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

147-13 COMMUNICATION FROM LUCR RE: PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAND SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR INLAND WETLANDS CONSULTANT SERVICES, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

151-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY & MANAGEMENT RIGHT RESPONSE CT NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

152-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FY 2015 LEAD POISONING PREVENTION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

153-13 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX INCENTIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

154-13 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT #4 TO THE WEST END MUNICIPAL

DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO DESIGNATE FOR ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE PROJECT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

155-13 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSITION OF FOUR PROPERTIES IN THE WEST END REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE CHERRY STREET ADAPTIVE REUSE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

157-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE RE: PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT (EVSE) PROJECTS, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO REFER THE ABOVE NAMED ITEMS TO COMMITTEE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

156-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Phase 2 – FAA Grant Offer/Agreement for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Project No. 3-09-0002-029-2014 Located at Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 156-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED PHASE 2 – FAA GRANT OFFER/AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (AIP) PROJECT NO. 3-09-0002-029-2014 LOCATED AT IGOR I. SIKORSKY MEMORIAL AIRPORT.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

148-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Brannelly re: Proposed Request that a “No Parking” zone and appropriate “No Parking” signs be posted in designated areas located on Beacon Court from its Intersection with Beacon Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

149-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia re: Proposed Request that the

Installation of One or More Crosswalks and appropriate signage and markings on road be placed in designated areas on Main Street at its Intersection with Wheeler Avenue and Porter Street, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.

Council Member Holloway said he would like to discuss Agenda Item 150-13.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFERRED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

148-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT A “NO PARKING” ZONE AND APPROPRIATE “NO PARKING” SIGNS BE POSTED IN DESIGNATED AREAS LOCATED ON BEACON COURT FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH BEACON STREET, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

149-13 RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA RE: PROPOSED REQUEST THAT THE INSTALLATION OF ONE OR MORE CROSSWALKS AND APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS ON ROAD BE PLACED IN DESIGNATED AREAS ON MAIN STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH WHEELER AVENUE AND PORTER STREET, REFERRED TO BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

150-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia re: Proposed Request that further designation of Honorary Streets be delayed until guidelines are adopted, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that she had concerns about the method of designating honorary streets since her first term and was planning on discussing it in Committee. Council Member Holloway said regarding the naming of streets, that there have been five streets that have been named after individuals. He said that no Council Member should have the right to determine what individuals should have streets after them because the community may want that. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that every Council Member has the right to put in a resolution and that the floor will be open in the Committee meeting. She said that she felt that it would be best to have something down on paper to make it consistent throughout the entire City.

Mayor Finch asked Council President McCarthy if the Council was considering guidelines. Council President McCarthy He said that the Council Members have the right to submit resolutions and that he had strong feelings about this issue, which he would present at the Public Safety Committee.

Council Member Holloway said that just because there were streets that were being named in the South End and East End, that didn't mean the Council Members had the right to control the naming.

Council Member Taylor-Moye said that it would be important to be able to honor people who have worked hard for the City. She said that if there were people who were opposed, they should come to the meeting and express their opinions.

Council Member Holloway asked for a roll call.

Rev. Lee said that she did not think that this was a big deal. Council President McCarthy reminded everyone that someone had requested a roll call vote, so the vote should be taken.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFERRED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE BOARD OR COMMITTEE:**

150-13 Resolution presented by Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia re: Proposed Request that further designation of Honorary Streets be delayed until guidelines are adopted, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, TORRES, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, HALSTEAD, SWAIN, MCCARTHY, AUSTIN, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, SALTER, DEJESUS, MARTINEZ, FELICIANO, MARELLA, PAOLETTO, AND MARTINEZ-WALKER) AND TWO AGAINST (MCBRIDE-LEE AND HOLLOWAY).**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***137-13 BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH REGULAR BUDGET UPDATES FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS AS A STANDING AGENDA ITEM FOR THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

117-13 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Appointment of Alfred Yazbak (D) to the WPCA Commission.

Council Member Swain announced that Mr. Yazbak has requested this appointment be withdrawn.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER SWAIN MOVED TO WITHDRAW AGENDA ITEM 117-13.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Halstead then spoke about Ms. Agnes Flanagan's service to the City as assistant principal of Central High School for thirty-eight years.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO ADD PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GJS PROPERTIES, LLC FOR BRIDGEPORT POLICE PARKING LOCATED AT 205-245 CONGRESS STREET TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE TO THE AGENDA.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (ITEM #159-13)**

158-13 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, referred to Contracts Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 158-13 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED MASTER MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR RIGHTS OF WAY PROJECTS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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